

# Annual Report

OF THE



MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH . .

FOR THE

## Epping Urban District


FOR THE YEAR 1905.

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EPPING:

ALFRED B. DAVIS, LTD., Epping and Loughton.

1905.



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# ANNUAL REPORT,

## 1905.

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report upon the Epping Urban District for the year 1905, being the Ninth Annual Report which it has been my pleasure to make to your Council.

The area of the district is 1,956 acres, and the population estimated to the middle of the year was 4,083. The town of Epping, occupying the centre of the district, stands at an altitude of 360ft. above sea level, with land, chiefly meadow or pasture, sloping on either side, to the north-west and south-east. The soil is a loam and gravel overlying the London clay. The houses are principally of the residential class, and with the exception of an Ironfoundry, there are no factories, or special industries of importance in the district.

### **Inspections.**

Every part of the district has been inspected during the year, and wherever it has been necessary or advisable, repeated inspections have been made. The bakehouses, dairies, cowsheds, milkshops, and workshops, have received special attention, and I have been able to especially report to the Council upon the generally satisfactory state in which they have been found. It may safely be said there is not a house in the district now unprovided with a good water supply, and scarcely one that is not connected with a main sewer. Cottage dwellings are well looked after and kept in good repair. The public scavenging has been satisfactory, and although one has sometimes to regret the absence of proper dust-bins, upon the other hand, it is preferable that refuse should be removed at short intervals, than that thought should be taken for prolonged storage in undesirable situations.

## Sanitary Improvements Effected during the Year.

Building operations have been fairly extensive during the year, a larger number of new houses than hitherto have been certificated. Besides these, most of the old houses previously unconnected with the sewers have been connected. Of the few houses still continuing unconnected with the water-mains, most have now been connected. Storage cisterns have been attended to, and when they needed it, have been cleaned, repaired, or covered. The various sewage outfalls, also have been inspected, and measures have been taken in hand to prevent nuisances arising from them, and to render the effluents innocuous.

### Sanitary Inspector's Statement

Of work carried out during the year ending December 31st, 1905, being a copy of Report sent to the Clerk of the Essex County Council.

	TOTAL NUMBER FOR YEAR	NOTES, RESULTS OF INSPECTIONS, ETC.
1. Complaints received ...	25	
2. Nuisances detected without complaint ... ..	56	
3. Nuisances abated ... ..	56	
4. Notices served ... ..	51	
5. Summonses taken out ...	0	
6. Convictions... ..	0	
7. Cottages inspected... ..	129	
8. Lodging - houses inspected	0	
9. Slaughter-houses inspected	4	
10. Bakehouses inspected ...	5	
11. Dairies and milkshops in- spected ... ..	4	
12. Cowsheds inspected ...	4	
13. Workshops inspected ...	16	
14. Filthy houses cleansed (Sec. 14 Public Health Act, 1875)	0	
15. Houses disinfected... ..	5	
16. Overcrowding abated ...	5	
17. Houses placed in habitable repair ... ..	10	
18. Houses closed ... ..	0	
19. Houses erected or rebuilt, for which "certificates" were applied ... ..	36	
20. "Certificates" granted ...	36	
21. „ „ deferred ...	0	
22. Improved supplies of water afforded ... ..	5	
23. Wells cleansed ... ..	1	
24. Wells closed ... ..	0	

	TOTAL NUMBER FOR YEAR	NOTES, RESULTS OF INSPECTIONS, ETC.
25. Houses connected with sewers ... ..	54	{ New houses, 28; old houses, 16; S.E. sewer 31, N.W. sewer 23.
26. Houses connected with water mains ... ..	48	New houses, 43; old houses, 5.
27. Privies altered ... ..	4	Converted to W.C.'s.
28. W.C.'s repaired; W.C.'s supplied with water ... }	(a) 14 (b) 41	
29. Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered ... ..	36	
30. Animals improperly kept removed ... ..	0	
31. Samples of water taken for analysis ... ..	1	
32. Compensation paid for de- struction of infected bedding	0	
33. Seizures of unsound meat, etc.	0	

Signed,

GEO. H. PEGRAM,

A.R.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.

## Action taken to prevent the spread of Infection.

The cases of infectious diseases notified during the year were again few, being as follows, viz.,

1. May	4	Mrs. N.	54 years.	Lindsey Street.	Erysipelas.
2. „	29	E.J.	Male	High Street.	Enteric Fever.
3. Aug.	13	J.H.	„	4 „ Bower Hill.	Scarlet Fever.
4. Sept.	30	A.E.F.	Female	47 „ Ivy Chimneys.	Erysipelas.
5. Oct.	23	J.F.	„	10 „ „	Scarlet Fever.
6. „	27	F.W.W.	Male	29 „ The Plain.	„
7. „	28	F.C.	„	4 „ Chapel Road.	Diphtheria.
8. Nov.	1	Mrs. V.	36 „	„ Church Hill.	Puerperal Fever.

The average number of notifications for the eight years, 1897—1904, was 18, which shows a considerable improvement for the past year. The rate of incidence of these diseases upon the population was equal to 1.9 per 1000, which is considerably below the average for the eight previous years. There were, in fact, no epidemics of any kind in the district during the year. The Enteric, Scarlet Fever, and Diphtheria cases were each removed to the Rural Isolation Hospital at Rood Street, the houses were disinfected, and in no case was there any spread of infection. In the Erysipelas cases the houses were inspected, but without discovering any sanitary defects. It does not appear to me that there is any advantage in the notification of these cases. As a precaution



against outbreaks of Enteric Fever I have continued to comply with the request of the Council to make a quarterly report upon the water supply, but I am bound to point out that nothing short of a bacteriological examination of the water is of any real value in this respect, and for this purpose a suitably equipped laboratory would be necessary.

## **Sanitary Requirements of the District.**

The present highly satisfactory condition of this district, as already shown in this Report, would seem to suggest that but few sanitary improvements are called for, and this, I think, in a general way, may be accepted as being the case. In some respects, however, it cannot be said that we have yet quite reached perfection. The housing of the working classes, although it has been vastly improved within recent years, is still not altogether satisfactory. The cottage accommodation is defective, and there remains much overcrowding. In the matter of sewage disposal also, complaints of nuisances caused by the methods at present in use, continue to be made, and it is to be hoped that the improvements at the different sewage works which are at the present time being carried out by the Council will be effectual in remedying such defects as exist.

There are no common lodging-houses in the district, but it is customary at several of the Inns to provide a common room, usually in the rear, and shut off from the house itself, in which lodgers are accommodated for the night for the payment of a few pence. These lodgers are generally tramps or other persons travelling about in search of work. The custom is a humane one in itself, but is not altogether free from the risk of importing infection, and needs, I think, that these rooms should be supervised from time to time by the Sanitary Inspector.

## **Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.**

This Act, which came into force at the commencement of the year 1902, requires that "the Medical Officer of Health of every District Council shall, in his Annual Report to them, report specifically on the administration of this Act in workshops and workplaces, and he shall send a copy of his Annual Report, or so much of it as deals with this subject to the Secretary of State." The workshops and workplaces concerned in this district are principally the bake-houses, dressmaking-rooms, and laundries, which have all been inspected during the year, and found to be in a satisfactory condition. In September, I made a special inspection of the bake-houses, dairies, and cowsheds in the district, and I was able afterwards to report very favourably upon the state in which I found them.

## Vital Statistics.

The population to the middle of the year 1905 has been estimated at 4083.

**Births.**—The births registered were 90, or equal to a birth-rate of 22·2 per 1000.

**Deaths.**—The deaths registered as having occurred in the district were 77, to which has to be added one of a resident known to have occurred beyond the district, and the subtraction of 25, of persons (non-residents) dying in the Union Workhouse. The corrected number of deaths was thus: 53, or equal to a death-rate of 12·9 per 1000.

**Infant Mortality.**—There were 8 deaths of infants under one year of age. Measured by the proportion of deaths under one year to births registered, the rate of infant mortality was equal to 88·8 per 1000, which is the lowest rate yet reached in the district.

**Zymotic Deaths.**—If we except one death from Diarrhœa in May of a person 51 years of age, and who was stated to have suffered also from Heart Disease and Bronchitis, there were no deaths from the group of diseases usually classed as zymotic. We had thus the very low rate of 0·2 per 1000 from this cause.

The usual Local Government Board Tables, to which is added Table V. of Infant Mortality (which is new), and the Form under the Factories and Workshops Act, have been filled up, and are appended to this Report.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant.

**TREVOR FOWLER,**

L.R.C.P. & S.I.; D.P.H., Cantab.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

TO THE EPPING URBAN

DISTRICT COUNCIL.

*Epping, February 6th, 1906.*

TABLE I.—For Whole District.

[illegible]

\* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.



TABLE II

Names of Localities.	Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
Small District, without recognised divisions of known population.—T. F.					

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in Whole District.							No. of Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 & upwards.	
Small-Pox ...	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Cholera ...	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Diphtheria ...	1	::	1	::	::	::	::	1
Membranous Croup	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Erysipelas ...	2	::	::	::	::	2	::	::
Scarlet Fever ...	3	::	1	1	::	1	::	2
Typhus Fever.....	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Enteric Fever ...	1	::	::	1	::	::	::	1
Relapsing Fever...	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Continued Fever...	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Puerperal Fever ...	1	.	::	::	::	1	::	::
Plague ...	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Totals ...	8	..	2	2	...	4	..	4

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1905.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.							Deaths in Public Institutions.
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	
Measles ... ..	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Scarlet Fever ... ..	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Whooping Cough ... ..	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Diphtheria and membranous croup ... ..	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Enteric ... ..	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Epidemic Influenza ...	2	::	::	::	::	1	1	::
Diarrhœa ... ..	1	::	::	::	::	1	::	::
Enteritis ... ..	2	1	::	::	::	1	::	::
Phthisis ... ..	2	::	::	1	::	1	::	3
Other tubercular diseases	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Cancer, malignant disease	6	::	::	::	::	4	2	::
Bronchitis... ..	6	::	1	::	::	1	4	1
Pneumonia ... ..	5	1	1	::	::	1	2	1
Pleurisy ... ..	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	1
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of liver	1	::	::	::	::	1	::	1
Premature birth ... ..	2	2	::	::	::	::	::	::
Diseases and accidents of parturition ... ..	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Heart diseases ... ..	3	::	::	::	1	1	1	3
Accidents... ..	1	::	::	::	1	::	::	2
Suicides ... ..	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
All other causes ... ..	17	4	::	::	::	6	7	17
All causes ...	48	8	2	1	2	18	17	29

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality During the Year 1905.  
Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under  
One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH. (ALL CAUSES.)	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	10-11 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
Certified ... ..	5	1	6	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	10
Uncertified .. ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea, all forms ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis (not Tuberculous)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Premature Birth ... ..	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Convulsions ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Suffocation, overlaying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Causes... ..	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	5	1	6	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	10

Births in the Year { Legitimate, 82.

{ Illegitimate, 8 (including 2 in workhouse, non-residents).

Deaths from all causes at all ages, 53 (net).

Population estimated to middle of 1905, 4083.

TABLE VI.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, and  
Homework.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ... ..	...	...	...
Workshops (including Work- shop Laundries) ...	16	...	...
Workplaces ... ..	...	...	...
Homeworkers' Premises ...	...	...	...
Total ... ..	16	...	...

Workshops on the Register	...	16
Bakehouses	...	5
Dressmaking	...	5
Laundries...	...	2

T. FOWLER.